

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #4

1 Step Forward, 2 Steps Back

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GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	一進一退
Kana	いっしんいったい
Romaji	Isshin ittai
Meaning	One step forward and two steps back, go back and forth

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
Today's 四字熟語	一	進	一	退
Kana	いっ	しん	いっ	たい
Rōmaji	Itsu	Shin	Itsu	Tai
Meaning	One	Advance	One	Retreat

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Isshin(一進) : One step forward

Ittai(一退) : One step backward

Shin (進; Advance) ⇔ *Tai* (退; Retreat)

Similar Expression:

一喜一憂 : いっきいちゆう; ikki ichiyū

It means that "be glad and sad by turns every time situation changes."

喜(joy) ⇔ 憂(grieve)

Usage

This phrase is used when medical conditions or the situation of game or battle is getting better and worse or vacillates.

Sample Sentences

母の病状は、一進一退で、安心できない。

Haha no byōjō wa, isshin ittai de, anshin dekinai.

Since my mother's condition has been getting better and worse, we can't relax.

試合は、一進一退で、どちらが勝つかわからない。

Shiai wa, isshin ittai de, dochira ga katsu ka wakaranai.

The two teams go back and forth at each other, and we can't see which team is going to win the game.

株価は一進一退を繰り返している。

Kabuka wa isshin ittai o kurikaeshite iru.

The share price is keeps going up and down.

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Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(2)	一長一短
Kana	いちちょういったん
Romaji	<i>icchō ittan</i>
Meaning	merits and demerits, good and bad points

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
Today's 四字熟語	一	長	一	短
Kana	いつ	ちょう	いつ	たん
Rōmaji	itsu	chō	itsu	tan
Meaning	One	Long	One	Short

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Chō (長) comes from "*chō sho* (長所)", which means "advantage" or "good points."

Tan (短) comes from "*tan sho* (短所)", which means "demerits" or "bad points."

Chō (長) ⇔ Tan (短)

Ichō ittan (一長一短) literally means that if someone/something has one good point, it has one bad point at the same time.

Usage

This expression is used in a sentence like "*Donna --- ni mo ichō ittan ga aru.* (どんな~にも一長一短がある)" which means "every -- has merits and demerits."

Sample Sentences

どんな人にも一長一短がある。

Donna hito ni mo ichō ittan ga aru.

Every person has their good and bad points.

どのカメラにも一長一短があって、決められない。

Dono kamera ni mo ichō ittan ga atte, kimerarenai.

Each camera has good and bad points, and it's hard to choose one.

どの案にも一長一短がある。

Dono an ni mo ichō ittan ga aru.

Every idea has both strong and weak points.